

Clubs News 2015:

It has been a busy year for British Freediving affiliate clubs. We have seen plenty of new attendance. I get a regular monthly enquiries from people looking for clubs or instructors and forward details according to geography with a link to our clubs page.

There are also a number of clubs being set up away from the BFA and AIDA as other training agencies emerge, some quite large. I would like to reach out and invite these emerging clubs to become BFA affiliates, however the issue of agencies and how we support non-AIDA education has been ongoing and is still unclear.

Presently all of our affiliate clubs are purely AIDA or AIDA plus another agency. These other clubs who are not linked to AIDA are a potential source of membership and importantly a large part of the freediving community in the UK. As AIDA is the only agency investing into research of safety issues, I feel it is important to share our knowledge with everyone, irrespective of agency.

It is my opinion that providing a club agrees to practice within BFA Standards of Safety as per our Affiliate Agreement, that the qualifying agency should not matter. The quality of instruction has far more to do with the instructor than the agency. Therefore all clubs should be able to list themselves as offering education providing they have Professional Liability insurance plus are renewed with their agency.

I have been trying to get this conversation happening at committee level, however it seems to be drawing a blank, so I would like to propose that we ask the BFA membership their opinion to have some clarity and find the matter resolved either way. The lack of any resolution of this matter is why I would like to step away from my role as Clubs Officer, as I don't feel that we are adequately supporting UK free diving with our listings.

There is also a sense that some affiliate clubs support the BFA by encouraging membership, however very many do not feel the need. I would welcome feedback on how to encourage organisers to recruit new members at their clubs.

Georgina Miller
BFA Clubs Officer
